

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 460

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	9.6	881	875	1,756
Total Maintenance Level	9.6	995	1,027	2,022
Difference		114	152	266
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	12.9%	17.4%	15.1%
Performance Changes				
Reduced Staffing and Expenses	(1.6)	(100)	(100)	(200)
Natural Resources Consolidation #	(4.0)	(436)	(451)	(887)
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(16)	(17)	(33)
State Data Center Rate Increase		2	2	4
Subtotal	(5.6)	(550)	(566)	(1,116)
Total Proposed Budget	4.0	445	461	906
Difference	(5.6)	(436)	(414)	(850)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(58.1)%	(49.5)%	(47.3)%	(48.4)%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Implementation of the Management Plan and National Scenic Area Act	1.7	195	205	400
Policy Making and Hearing Citizen Appeals	1.6	164	168	332
Public Outreach and Technical Assistance to Counties	.8	86	88	174
Total Proposed Budget	4.0	445	461	906

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Reduced Staffing and Expenses

The Columbia River Gorge Commission will reduce staffing and commensurate salaries. Additional savings will be found through reductions in goods and services. These actions will significantly limit the commission's ability to perform all its core functions, resulting in delays for land use decisions and appeals hearings. All reductions are ongoing. General Fund-State reductions are matched by equal reductions in General Fund-Private/Local, which represents the Oregon share of the reduction, as required by the Columbia River Gorge Compact. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

Natural Resources Consolidation

The Columbia River Gorge Commission will merge into the Department of Ecology as of July 1, 2012. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal, General Fund-Private/Local)

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Implementation of the Management Plan and National Scenic Area Act

All counties of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area administer land use policies set forth by the Gorge Commission, with the exception of Klickitat County. (The Commission implements these policies for Klickitat County.) The Commission reviews county-approved plans for development to ensure consistency with the National Scenic Area Act and Management Plan. It also reviews federal monies dispensed by Oregon and Washington investment boards in the form of economic development loans and grants.

Policy Making and Hearing Citizen Appeals

The primary function of the agency is to set land use policies for counties with land in the National Scenic Area. The counties of the Gorge area carry out these policies and issue land use decisions. Citizens may appeal county decisions to the Commission, which acts as a quasi-judicial body by reviewing the facts of the case and rendering a final decision. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private Local)

Public Outreach and Technical Assistance to Counties

This activity increases public awareness of the National Scenic Area Act and Management Plan, and provides assistance to counties in its implementation. The Vital Signs Indicators Project (VSI) is a rigorous effort to measure and track the conditions of the scenic, natural, economic, cultural, and recreational resources in the NSA. Monitoring these resources will guide adaptive management and provide empirical information to inform management plan review. By working together with communities and in collaboration with partner agencies on VSI, the Commission will continue to build new and strengthen existing relationships with government entities and local communities. The Commission and partner agencies will continue to develop the metrics to assess VSI and collect and analyze information to track conditions over time. Finally, the Gorge Commission will utilize the current research, data, and analytical methods that produce robust and reliable results to wisely guide management decisions.